

Dear Prof. Brock,

Thank you for your letter of 15 July. I do indeed remember you and the lecture you gave to my group in London. I am intrigued to learn of your current interest in the early history of bacterial genetics and wonder if you are contemplating writing a book about it. I regret that I have not kept any of my correspondence with the Lederbergs, Cavalli-Sforza, Jacob, Wollman & Co. in the early 1950s. But, following your letter, I searched the old packing cases I brought to Australia and discovered four of my experimental notebooks covering my first K12 experiments on 17 July 1950 to the time I left Caltech at the end of December 1953! These, of course, are far too detailed and exotic to be of value to you. However, about a year ago I started to write a rather desultory mini-autobiography which the Royal Society requests as the basis for an obituary(!) and, on looking through this, I find about ten pages on the early K12 work which might be of interest. So I will copy these and send them to you by the university "courier mail" service so that they may arrive before this letter. I will also include an off-print of an article that might interest you on "Max Delbruck and the Birth of Molecular Biology" which I wrote for a recent number of the N.Y. quarterly "Social Research". This journal is read mainly by sociologists, philosophers &c., so I tried to use as little jargon as possible. If there is anything you would like me to expand, or if I can help in any other way, please don't hesitate to let me know.

As for myself, I accepted a "pure research" Chair in Canberra twelve years ago to escape an increasing load of administration (which I hate!) in the UK. So, although I made no epoch-making discoveries, I have enjoyed my Australian adventure! I have now been "retired" for five years but still have a small lab and give some undergraduate lectures on such topics as the molecular genetics of phage/prophage, and the recent exciting oncogene work, which keeps me occupied.

Once again, do let me know if I can provide you with any more information.

With best wishes, Sincerely,

Bill Hayes

